

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 EA-10
FRB-03 IO-13 NEA-10 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PEPR ECIN NL EEC
SUBJECT: DUTCH FAIL IN EFFORTS TO RALLY SMALLER EC MEMBERS

REF: LONDON 10690 (NOTAL)

1. DUTCH PRESS HAS NOTED THE EFFORTS BY PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAAUW TO RALLY THE SMALLER EC COUNTRIES TOGETHER TO OPPOSE THE TENDENCY OF THE LARGER MEMBER STATES TO DETERMINE COMMUNITY POLICIES WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSULTATIONS. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THE TWO DUTCH LEADERS MET EARLIER THIS WEEK IN BRUSSELS WITH TINDEMANS AND IN BREMEN WITH JORGENSEN, AND THEN AGAIN WITH TINDEMANS AND THORN IN BREMEN. THE THRUST OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS TO GET THE SMALLER GOVERNMENTS TO PROTEST THE INDEPENDENT MANNER IN WHICH MONETARY PLANS WERE BEING WORKED OUT BY SCHMIDT AND GISCARD.

2. THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY UNSUCCESSFUL,
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ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS. THE BELGIANS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE BELGIAN POSITION IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE DUTCH. JORGENSEN SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BAD IF THE BIG THREE HAD TAKEN SECRET DECISIONS BUT THAT HAD NOT OCCURRED. THE IRISH SAID THEY MIGHT HAVE AGREED WITH THE DUTCH IF THEY HAD BEEN APPROACHED IN TIME.

3. THE REACTION OF THE PRESS HAS BEEN THAT THIS IS THE SORT OF EFFORT WHICH THE SMALLER MEMBER STATES MUST CONSTANTLY MAKE AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS MUST ALWAYS BE ALERT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF BIG THREE DICTATES. HOWEVER, THE DUTCH EFFORT ON THIS OCCASION WAS TOO LATE -- THREE WEEKS AFTER THE GERMAN/FRENCH MEETING IN HAMBURG -- AND "IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO SPEAK OF A WELL THOUGHT-OUT, CAREFULLY PREPARED DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE." (ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD).

4. COMMENT. THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE CONTINUING WORRY OF THE SMALLER MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY THAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE NOT GIVEN ADEQUATE ATTENTION AND THAT "INFORMING IS NOT CONSULTING", AS VAN DER KLAUW EXPRESSED IT, ALTHOUGH ON THIS OCCASION THE DUTCH CONCERN WAS NOT SHARED BY OTHERS. (THIS CONCERN IS, OF COURSE, CONTINUOUSLY ENCOUNTERED IN NATO AS WELL.) IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF DUTCH DOMESTIC POLITICS, THIS EFFORT IS VIEWED BY THE PRESS AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GON PROCRASTINATION -- IT WAS A GOOD IDEA BUT THE GOVERNMENT ACTED TOO LATE.

5. WE ARE INCLINED TO TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW THAN THE DUTCH PRESS OF THE GON MANEUVER. THEIR EFFORTS WERE AIMED AT DRAWING ATTENTION TO THEIR CLAIM OF INADEQUATE CONSULTATIONS AND THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS. THE DUTCH HAVE MADE THESE PROTESTS AT EVERY EC SUMMIT AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO SO, UNDETERRED BY CHARGES OF BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATE OR BY THE FAILURE TO GET OTHER SMALL MEMBER STATES TO AGREE WITH THEM ON THIS OCCASION.
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